

**ABSTRACT**

A system for protecting surfaces and facilitating the removal of unwanted substances therefrom is disclosed, the system including a polymeric coating having a low volatile organics content (VOC) which is safe for the environment, and a cleaner for application to the coating to remove material from the coating, such as graffiti. The coating may be either a water-based epoxy comprising a bisphenol A resin and polyamide resin, or an aliphatic urethane comprising a polymer having reactive sites which react with an isocyanate and an aliphatic isocyanate. The cleaner is suitable for removing all manner of epoxy and urethane based spray paints, indelible inks, industrial chemicals, and the like. The cleaner comprises N-methyl pyrrolidone in a concentration of fifty percent by weight or greater and a surfactant.